

Appl. No. 10/816,064
Response Dated August 28, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of June 28, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed June 26, 2006. In the Final Office Action, claims 19 and 61 were objected to due to certain informalities, claims 4, 5, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b), claims 3, 18-27, 30, 63, 45-46, 49, 60-62, and 64 were allowed over prior art, claims 6-17, 32-43, and 59 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment claims 4, 5, and 31 have been cancelled, claims 6, 8, 16, 17, 19, 22, 24, 32, 34, 38-43, and 61 have been amended to be in independent form including the limitations of the allowable claims. No new matter has been added. Claims 3, 6-27, 30, 32-43, 45, 46, 49, 59-64 remain pending. Reconsideration in light of the amendment is respectfully requested.

The Applicants also respectfully submit that the claims 19, 22, 24, and 62 have been amended to overcome the objections due to certain informalities as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim rejections

Claims 4, 5, 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Burke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,438,605, hereinafter "Burke"). Applicants have cancelled these claims but reserve a right to file a continuation if deemed necessary.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the claim rejections and objections.

Summary

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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